(c) and (d) As the Government of Sri Lanka agreed on Voluntary Export Restraint of 2.50 lakh MT, the canalization of Vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine through NAFED was no longer relevant it was de-notified. No relaxations from quality standards has been given.

Removal of ban on sugar import

†2322. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove the ban on the export of sugar;

(b) if so, from which date this decision will be effective and what will be the quantity of export of sugar; and

(c) whether the prices of sugar are not likely to rise further in the country by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Sugar export (except restricted export of preferential quota sugar to EU and USA) was prohibited with effect from 04..07.2006 till 31.03.2007. No quantitative restrictions are prescribed for free sugar exports.

(c) Sugar prices and its future projections show a steady decline from April, 2007 onwards.

Export of unmanufactured tobacco to USA

2323. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has drawn up any plan to encourage export of unmanufactured tobacco to U.S.A. from Andhra Pradesh in 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) whether any delegation has been sent to U.S.A. to conclude talks and improve exports of unmanufactured tobacco;

(c) the extent of such tobacco being exported presently to USA in 2006-07;

(d) the trade and other obstacles which face Indian exporters to U.S.A. for this product; and

(e) the discussions held in this regard with U.S. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) 4793 metric tonnes of Indian unmanufactured tobacco valued Rs. 25.23 crore was exported to the United States of America (USA) in 2006-07.

(d) The Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) regime on tobacco imports in USA is restricting market access for Indian tobacco.

(e) The Government has brought up this issue in bilateral discussions on trade with the US Government, Trade Policy Review of USA and other forums for a favourable resolution.

Establishment of Super-SEZs

2324. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized plans for Super-SEZs which involve a specially delineated area of 250 square kilometres;

(b) what are the gains from Super-SEZs, covering 2.5 lakh acres;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government will have to acquire the land for private SEZ operators;

(d) whether public opinion has been sought on such Super-SEZs; and

(e) the steps proposed to review this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) There is no proposal for any Super-SEZ scheme. However, as one of the initiatives towards providing quality infrastructure in order to encourage manufacturing growth in the country, Government has notified, policy regarding Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR). The PCPIR could include one or more SEZs, industrial parks, growth centres etc. which will attract investments and generate direct and indirect employment. As regards, land acquisition for private SEZ operators the State Governments have been advised that no such proposal would be considered for approval as SEZ where the State Government has compulsorily acquired or proposes to compulsorily acquire land after 5th April, 2007.

Establishment of industrial parks in Sikkim

2325. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial parks set up in the States of North Eastern Region particularly in the State of Sikkim during the year 2006-07;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to establish such parks in Sikkim during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allotted for the same?